Warsaw Feb 23 1842

Dear dear Sister,

I received your friendly & cheering and maternal remarks relations of interest to my behalf the 20 inst. I thank you much for them, and will now tell you that I am ready to comply with your terms, & truly answer all your questions. — Nearly 2 months ago I believe I will waiting to hear from you concluded you did not know where to direct a letter to me, and determined in my mind, but above that time can be reputed, but mentions question was due consideration, I have

[illegible] and by the way let me say you did me inquiries, you ask what are

[illegible] rendered my mind unsettled — and I concluded to defer writing till I should be enabled to form a decision — This is my excuse. And now my dear sister let me entreat you to be patient for I have a long story to tell you —

I will not scan your so much white paper as you did mine But I hasten to answer your kind

you doing? Let me say Alberic has become a wanderer. I am now with cousin in Rivesaltes have spent 4 weeks with him am spending as much of my time as possible in reading, writing and study — This answers your first inquiry. & to your 2nd what have you done? I answer I remained in my school in Rivesaltes very [illegible] my friends felt they could not leave me there alone that I must accompany them to Oil have the charge of their children and thought I should have an opportunity of taking an office. but this render my situation very different and profitable — in furnishing off their house in any account they made provision for a school room — and I closed my school for the winter in order of complying with their wishes and accepting of their kindness — In the mean time while examining my prospects I felt that my sphere of usefulness was going to be limited compared with what it then was — and [illegible] Father had shewn me that my obligations were every day increasing — and that the calls of a dying world were indeed loud — I thanked God in a private retreat — the Lord gave me my desire — very unexpectedly opened a door where I might lay myself out in rendering my fellow creatures happier and more useful — — I was enabled to embrace the opportunity with pleasure — — and my friends felt that the direction of my steps were so visible that they were not at liberty to claim my services — and gave their consent that I might go — — Sept. 1st of Nov. I commenced my labors at the county poor house in Brighton about 2 miles from Rochester — and [illegible] married there twelve months — at which time I left for Roussillon — Your third inquiry. How do you enjoy yourself? Let the glory be given to God when I say [illegible] I never before knew what true happiness was in comparatively shortening. He has revealed his goodness to pass before me, and sometimes to feel that he must

withhold his hand or ~~withdraw~~ the vessell - and but for my ingratitude and unbelief I might have continually enjoyed the blessings of the millenial morn — Yes my dear Sister I believe it is nothing but our unwillingness, that prevents us from being truly and happy - and arriving to the full assurance of hope here before — If we will give ourselves unreservedly into the arms of our dear Saviour, he will purify our hearts, sanctify our wills, ~~and~~ strip us of our idols, place our affections upon himself, and give us desires to live to his glory — Is it not so? You who have known long experience in the Christian warfare I think must know this to be the case long ago — — and let me ask here - do we not actually grieve against God dishonour him, and ~~by~~ materially injure ourselves by placing so little confidence in the precious promises? I should like your views upon this — my mind for a few days past has been ~~there~~ much upon it — ——

Your next inquiry is what are you going to do? I received a letter from our dear Brother at the same time I did yours - She says to me "Adopt the motto of your dear deceased Father "Duties clearly called for by providence will never ~~my~~ shorter leads I mean to follow." — I feel that the grace of God has enabled me to do it, and now while I tell you of the leadings of Providence with me and the path which I do feel that my heavenly Father has selected for me — You will not then think somewhat that I have ~~mistaken~~ my duty and am following after the delusion of ~~my~~ excited passions in that it is altogether the imagination — It is not dear sister. "I have seen a sight which you cannot see, and heard a voice which you cannot hear." I would ask for an additional evidence ~~which~~ ~~which~~ to point out the path I cannot ask my Father to speak plainer than he has done — I expect to leave this place for Rochester as soon as the first of March for the purpose of qualifying myself for teacher in an infant school — I shall probably tarry there about four months after which if the Lord will I shall visit dear Brother S. then return to the east — shall if possible visit you ~~before~~ before I go to sea — I expect to spend a few months at my dear home — if life is spared and Providence permits in the Fall I shall take a final farewell — my dear friends and native coast — myself upon the ~~ocean~~ of the great deep and hope to spend the remainder of my days in heathen lands in the delightful service of the dear Redeemer! So you start with a surprise, and are you ready to say - Surely Maria has not counted the cost — ~~But all~~ she is so childlike in her attachment to her friends that she will immediately ~~upon~~ dispose of when parting from them without any prospect of ever beholding them again? She possesses so little fortitude and resolution she cannot bear up under the trials and perplexities and sacrifices of a missionary life? — I have looked at all these circumstances I have tried to count the cost — I love my dear friends - I do not forget them - but by whose hand were they bestowed? a merciful Saviour calls upon me to leave them and to follow him — Shall I say to him the sacrifice is too great, I cannot leave those dear things thou hast given me? or shall I go grudgingly? Do my dear

sister. She seemed not hear me say "I pray she have me excused" — for — yes I love you all, not because I have ceased to love you but because my Master calls, and his love constrains me. I will rejoice in the privilege, and you his love constrains me. I will rejoice in the privilege, and you in truth me will plead that he will make me the instrument in the blessed employment of bringing to you his inheritance — A fair thought struck my mind as to the subjects and much of bearing my friends — much much of its subjects and much of bearing my friends — much of the dangers and difficulties which I must expect to encounter — and the separations will be short we shall all of us shake hands soon to meet where parewells and parting tears will be unknown

When the dangers of the ocean rose before me the thought struck me with peculiar force & beauty, "well not my feather be at the helm? He has promised me to cast all my burden upon him and to put a confidence that he will sustain me. When stepping

to consult the flesh — my feelings were keenly tried. Satan was undoubtedly rejoiced at my halting and very ready to raise obstacles in the way — but through the grace of God I do feel that I have been enabled to triumph over him — — And here let me point you to the parental tenderness of that hand which has been leading me along — I love to look at it and to point it out to my friends — — You doubtless recollect my feelings in regard to my dear mother and home, while with you — after becoming a little weaned from them my steps were directed still further from them, altho my dear sisters — but I was yet with friends and kindred. I do at times feel to [illegible] my absence from my nearest relations. But the dear Saviour manifested himself to me in such a manner that I soon began to feel that I could follow him to the ends of the earth, for he was more to me than all earthly friends and treasures — Soon he led me one step further, even away from all my kindred and riches I was surrounded by the favourings of our land — by wretchedness, poverty and vice. But there I could rejoice, and the thought which used particularly to animate my mind — there is a good place to learn to be a missionary. My heavenly Father might with equal propriety have called me to eastern Asia directly from the bosom of my home, before I had actually experienced so much of his loving kindness and tender mercy — but in parental, how tender, how [illegible] has been his treatment toward me — the most unworthy and least of all his creatures! For some months past, I have felt a strong desire that for the privilege of spending my life in the promotion of the cause of our dear Redeemer among those who set in heathen darkness — feeling that God was able to qualify me and strengthen himself with me in [illegible] manner — The last of dec. brother B. gave me information that he could have required by a former friend and on the 13th Sem. at Auburn to mention the subject to me in his behalf — I could not — but mine [illegible] Providence in this — felt that it was [illegible] for me to engage — — On this account I left my charge at Brighton — and although as before mentioned my struggle has been severe — yet I feel that my steps were directed by the unerring hand of God in the path selected for me by my Saviour, and his consolations, that this is the path selected for me by my Saviour, and his consolations, that this is the path selected for me by my Saviour, and his consolations, that this is

[redacted] Sis
hast graces yours has to give me at rest to the Lord. Th
has a severe trial to her health - but I feel that the Lord
will accept the offering at her hands and soon will bestow
upon the oil of joy and consolation — — — — —
I feel anxious to hasten to her arms as soon as possible
I thank you for your kind invitation it again experience
kindness — but I feel that my dear mother has a higher
upon me — Much love to your self family &c —
Yours with much love
Maria

Mary
Warsaw N.Y.
Feb 15 32

Mrs Harvey D. Smith
Governeur
St Lawrence Co
N.Y.

Warsaw N.Y.
Feb 25
1832

No 1

Our mood to Pa Smith.

Dear Sir, I have not forgotten your
or how much I am indebted to you but my present
deems to render it inconvenient for me to meet the
I shall hope soon to see you and will then say more
I trust I shall never forget your kindness or cease to
but — —
Yours with much affection and esteem
Maria